a staff member teaching German at one of our middle schools who
is endorsed in elementary education and social science. The
candidate pool was extremely limited, and not of the quality we
considered.   We were not able to hire a quality or qualified
agricultural science teacher to begin the 1999-2000 school year.
We were unable to find a teacher certified in Nebraska with a
media specialist endorsement.   A special education teacher
position was unable to be filled. We have a difficult time
finding foreign language teacher.   Centura could not find an
opening for a vocational-industrial technology position.   And
I'll just read the last one: we were unable to fill a 7-12
special education position for the first semester.   I think
these are just examples of...and there are some that I passed
out to you, but I have a stack of e-mails in my office that we
selected from last year that I'd be happy to provide to you. We
need to get started. We need to recruit teachers. This isn't
just about...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...salary issues, to me. It's a second kind
of issue. It's a recruitment issue. At least 35 percent of all
Nebraska teachers will retire in the next seven to ten years.
We also know that the number of teachers in the teacher
education programs at many schools is down.   UNL has seen a
30 percent decrease in the number of teacher education graduates
from 1987-88, when they awarded 486 degrees, to 1998-99, in
which they awarded 339 degrees. And these are some things that
I passed out the last time we discussed this. How much time do
I have, Mr. Speaker?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Fifteen seconds.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay.   I'll bring up the next
discussion...it's a white sheet that I just passed out...on the
next time I might have a chance to talk.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson.   (Visitors
introduced.) Senator Chambers, on AM1663 to LB 543.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as